

NOW ST. CHYRSOSTOM'S BELL

LETTERS IN GREAT VARIETY.

MUSIC FOR SOME WHO DWELL NEAR BY,
BUT NOT FOR OTHERS.

Talks with Twenty-second Warders on the Subject—Rever St. Hill and a Reporter Listening to the Music—Mr. Drinker's Reminiscences of Churches in '22.

"People complain of our bell, do they?"

With the observation that Beeton St. Hill of St. Chrysostom's Chapel made to a reporter for THE SUN yesterday. "Now, I want you to put on your hat and come over with me to the chapel and see for yourself whether it's a nuisance."

Mr. St. Hill's pretty brown-stone rectory is opposite the arched and buttressed granite chapel at West Thirty-ninth street and Seventh avenue. Crossing the street, the rector called the reporter's attention to the fact that the bell stood stately in a lofty stone tower on the southeast corner and that it was hung high above the roofs of the opposite houses. Consequently, the volume of sound is distributed over a wider space, and the echo is not so great. The chapel is both imposing and picturesque, and its large stained glass windows, with star-like foliations, and blue and gold, give the interior a rich, mellower light. At the southern end of the nave is a beautiful memorial window to the Rev. Frederick St. Hill, the father of the incumbent rector. A companion piece of equally rich coloring—the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin—adorns the northern end of the nave.

St. Chrysostom's is a part of Trinity parish, and the services which are undeniably "high," are not so high as those of St. Mary's. They are sufficiently advanced, however, to dispense the Low church population of the neighborhood. Early morning celebrations on Thursdays and Sundays, a white-robed boy choir, daily morning and evening prayers, and the ringing of the church bell before daylight on high festivals are features which its friends warmly applaud, and which its opponents as stoutly criticize.

Seven Wm. Cairns, who lives in a snug little flat opening on the courtyard back of St. Chrysostom's, was summoned to test the bell. The rector and the reporter went out on the sidewalk and listened.

"Ring it half a dozen times slowly, just as you do on Sundays, William," said Mr. St. Hill's order to the sexton as the latter was heard hastening about in the belfry above. A clear, ringing peal, sonorous but without musical, was the response. It was followed by another, and another, until the sexton had rung the bell more rapidly, turning it almost upside down, so as to show the noise that could be made in an emergency. Then he settled into a more leisurely gait, and began his regular practice on both Sundays and secular days.

"It was astonished," he said, "at the complaint in THE SUN this morning. Every one knows that it is the custom of the sexton to ring the bell once or twice for stopping the ringing, we are always glad to do so. Some time ago word was brought to me that a gentleman was sick in the neighborhood, and that he did not want to share it with him. I told him that I was to share it with him if he did not object."

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